

REMARKS

This is in response to the official action dated December 17, 2002. Reconsideration in view of the following is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that a curing step is required, between the steps of providing the layers on the embossed support foil, and removing the support foil (see Example 1, and original claim 5). New claim 9 states that where there are two or more layers, each layer is first cured before the next layer is added (see Example 1). New claim 10 sets forth that the product is complete after the last step (see page 5, bottom).

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102, and claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103, in view of McGrew. McGrew teaches a process whereby a resin is coated onto the relief surface of a master. The resin is cured "between the master and a smooth material, such as polyester film". The polyester film may then be removed. This is followed by a 'fourth step', namely coating with a substance to increase reflectivity. See column 3, line 63 – column 4, line 62).

Amended claim 1 sets forth a process, consisting essentially of certain steps to be performed in order. These steps include forming a sheet comprised of one or more layers, directly on the embossed support foil, curing the layers, and removing the sheet from the foil. There is no intermediate step of supplying a polyester film over the sheet prior to curing, as in McGrew. Therefore, McGrew does not teach a process consisting essentially of the steps set out in applicant's claim 1, as it teaches additional steps not required by applicant. Accordingly, it can not anticipate claims 1-3.

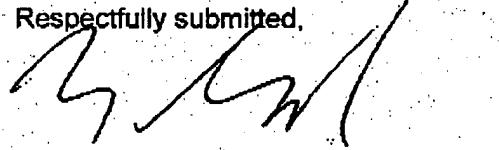
Furthermore, McGrew does not anticipate new claims 9 or 10. In claim 9, applicant requires that there be two or more layers in the sheet, and that the first layer be cured prior to laying down of the second layer. This not taught by McGrew. In claim 9, applicant requires that the final product be produced at the time of completion of the final step. McGrew teaches a

further, 'fourth step' relating to increase of reflectivity, and therefore does not teach a process which consists essentially of applicant's claimed process steps.

Likewise, the claims are not obvious over McGrew. McGrew teaches that a polyester film on top of the sheet is required prior to curing. The sheet is either retained as a support, or removed in an additional step. Applicant's have surprisingly found that the process for producing holograms can be greatly simplified, by avoiding these unnecessary extra steps. As the skilled person would presume from McGrew that these were essential for gaining a good product, it can not be obvious that a good product can be obtained without these additional steps, which add cost, complexity and time to the process. Therefore, all of the claims are allowable over McGrew.

Wherefore, allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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